

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01

DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /094 W

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R 210843Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8075

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 05264

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: DIRECTORATE FOR THE EC?

REF: PARIS 04343

SUMMARY. QUAI EC DESK OFFICER SAW PRESIDENT
GISCARD'S REMARKS ON ECDIRECTORATE AS SOMETHING LESS
THAN FIRM POLICY PROPOSAL. NEVERTHELESS WE SUSPECT THAT
GISCARD'S TRIAL BALOON REFLECTS HIS CONCERN THAT FURTHER
STEPS TOWARD EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION WILL REQUIRE A MORE
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EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP MECHANISM AND THAT SUCH A

MECHANISM MUST BE GROUNDED ON THE BONN-PARIS RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF FEBRUARY 17, QUAI EC DESK OFFICER ROBERT CANTONI WAS RELUCTANT TO ATTACH PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO PRESIDENT GISCARD'S REMARKS ON "DIRECTORATE" TO GUIDE EC (REFTEL). REMARKS SHOULD BE VIEWED, HE SAID, MORE ALONG LINES OF "THINKING ALOUD" THAN IN TERMS OF FIRM POLICY PROPOSAL. CANTONI ALSO THOUGHT THAT REMARKS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT WITH RESULT THAT THEIR MEANING WOULD APPEAR MORE PRECISE THAN ACTUALLY WAS THE CASE. IN ANY EVENT, CANTONI FELT THAT LITTLE WOULD BE GAINED THROUGH ANALYSIS OF PRESS ACCOUNTS, WHICH HE BRUSHED OFF AS "COMMENTARIES ON COMMENTARIES."

2. CANTONI DID OBSERVE, HOWEVER, THAT GOF, LIKE MOST EC GOVERNMENTS, AGREED THAT THE COMMUNITY WAS IN NEED OF MORE EFFICIENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AT EXECUTIVE LEVEL. THE DEBATE NOW REVOLVES AROUND THE QUESTION OF WHAT SORT OF PROCEDURAL CHANGES WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE TO THIS END. CANTONI NOTED THAT CHIEFS OF STATE WOULD PROBABLY BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ALONG THESE LINES AT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 05264

THE APRIL COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING WHERE RECOMMENDATIONS
CONTAINED IN TINDEMANS REPORT WILL ALSO BE ON THE AGENDA.

3. COMMENT: CANTONI'S OBSERVATIONS LEND CREDENCE TO
THE INITIAL IMPRESSION THAT GISCARD'S DIRECTORATE PROPO-
SAL WAS MEANT AS A TRIAL BALLOON. NEVERTHELESS, THE
BALLOON IS NOT ENTIRELY DEVOID OF SUBSTANCE. AN INFOR-
MAL FRANCO-GERMAN DIRECTORATE ALREADY EXISTS FOR ALL
PRACTICAL PURPOSES, REFLECTING WHAT SEEMS TO US A GROW-
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ING SENSE OF SHARED PERCEPTIONS BETWEEN GISCARD AND
SCHMIDT. BOTH LEADERS SEEM TO AGREE THAT THE CONSTRUC-
TION OF EUROPE MUST REST ON A FOUNDATION OF FRANCO-
GERMAN CONSENSUS. FOR GISCARD AT LEAST, IT APPEARS
THAT THE PARIS-BONN TIE IS NOT SUFFICIENT IN AND OF
ITSELF TO GUIDE EC POLICY. OTHER PLAYERS, MOST NOTABLY
GREAT BRITAIN AND ITALY, MUST HAVE A ROLE IN DIRECTING
THE EC. MOREOVER SMALLER COMMUNITY MEMBERS WILL HAVE
TO BE CONVINCED THAT THEIR OWN INTERESTS ARE PROTECTED.
THUS THE REALITY TO WHICH GISCARD DREW COMMUNITY ATTEN-
TION WITH HIS DIRECTORATE STATEMENT IS THE ABSENCE OF AN
EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP MECHANISM IN TODAY'S EUROPE -- AN
ABSENCE WHICH WILL HAVE INCREASINGLY SERIOUS IMPLICA-
TIONS AS THE EC EXPANDS. AND WHETHER OR NOT GISCARD IS
TRULY ATTACHED TO A "DIRECTORATE" MECHANISM, IT SEEMS
CLEAR THAT HE VIEWS REFORM OF COMMUNITY DECISION-MAKING
PROCESSES AS A PRIORITY ITEM. AS HE STATED DURING A
FEBRUARY 18 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING, "THE ESSEN-
TIAL IS TO FIND MEANS TO REINFORCE THE EUROPEAN CAPACITY
TO DETERMINE AND CONDUCT A TRUE ACTION POLICY."
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